

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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DRIVE-THROUGH PARADE

A drive-through Christmas parade will be held Saturday as part of Christmas in the Heart of Charleston

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HOME SWEET HOME

After three tough road games, the men's basketball team picked up a win in their home opener.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Friday, December 4, 2020

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Naming Committee discusses Douglas Hall

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The Naming Committee met to discuss their charge, methods of collecting feedback from constituents and future meetings Thursday afternoon.

University President David Glassman spoke to the committee to have a deeper conversation on what the committee's charge is supposed to be.

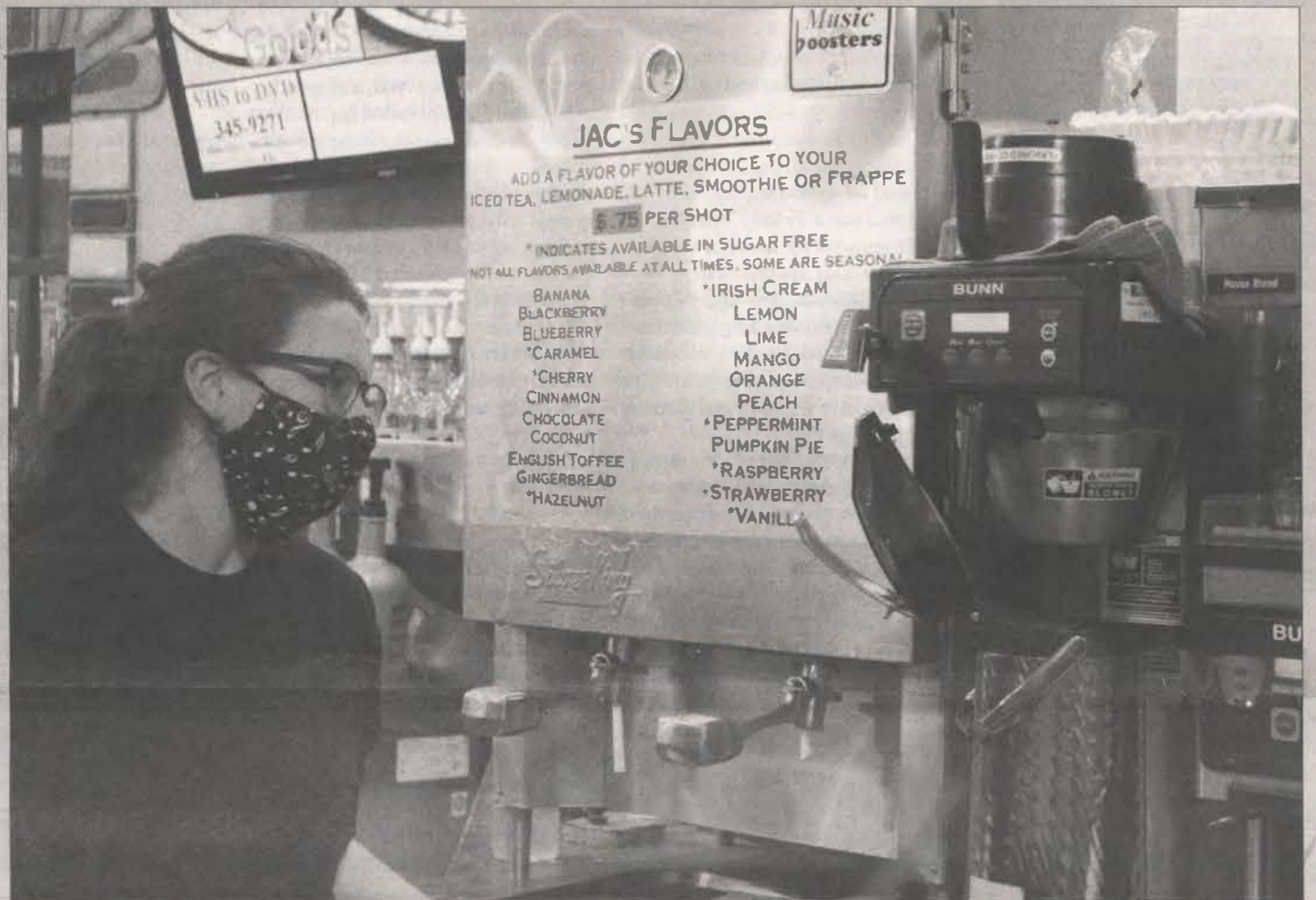
Glassman explained the charge is meant to be deciding whether Eastern should continue to commemorate the 1858 debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas through the residence halls, rather than just changing the name of Douglas Hall.

He emphasized he didn't want the change to be directly about Douglas Hall, but focusing on the debate and its historical ties. Glassman added that the committee may consider changing the name of Lincoln Hall if they choose to no longer commemorate the debate.

However, if the committee decides the name of the halls should change they are also asked to recommend a name for the change. If they decide the university should continue to commemorate the debate they may still recommend a name change to make the name more clear with a sign explaining the significance of the

NAMING, page 3

Something's brewing



Riley Cutright, a music performance senior, waits for Jackson's house blend coffee to brew at Jackson Avenue Coffee (JAC) shop Thursday evening. Cutright has been working at the JAC for a "couple of months" now. Cutright enjoys the job as she gets to "interact with all the community and getting to know people."

KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Panel held Thursday to discuss racism on campus

By Elizabeth Taylor
Associate News Editor | @DEN_news

Making Excellence Inclusive held a virtual panel on Thursday for Eastern students and faculty to discuss issues of racism on campus and the actions being taken to prevent further problems.

"Race Matters at EIU - Voices from the Yard" was organized in response to student requests to talk about events that occurred in the Spring 2020 semester, as well as individual experiences with racial inequity both on and off campus.

The discussion was moderated by Tim Abel, who began by encouraging attendees to be mindful of each other's time and make sure that everyone's thoughts could be heard.

While this was an open conversation, the official panelists were Starr Smith, Morgan Colvin, Keshyra Bluminberg, Marcus Powell, and Maria Cruz, all students at Eastern who volunteered to participate.

Marcus Powell, a senior political science major, was one of the first students to talk about his experience as a person of color on campus.

"I feel like as a student, when I was telling faculty about racism I experienced, they would just ignore it," Powell said. "It seems like the school only listens to things when they are publicly known which is a huge problem in our school's society."

Maria Cruz, an interpersonal communication major, corroborated his story with what she re-

members from her perspective as a Latinx student.

"I think it was last year or two years ago during Pantherpalooza, one organization had signs up that said like 'Build the Wall' that made Latinx students uncomfortable," Cruz said. "I think that made me aware that a lot of people at EIU aren't aware of how these things affect people and in Charleston a lot of residents don't know that some students are DACA recipients."

Cruz explained that the signs made her and her peers especially uncomfortable as they followed remarks made by President Trump about immigrants from Mexico.

She said that her reasons to be upset were very personal.

"I have a sister who is a DACA recipient. She is not a criminal," Cruz said. "She has a job because she is a DACA recipient, and I feel like a lot of people don't know about how much it helped."

Morgan Colvin, a graduate student studying public policy, and Keshyra Bluminberg, a senior English education major, discussed the actions they took toward having a Black Lives Matter flag raised on campus. Their discussions with faculty led to the installment of the "We are EIU" flagpole.

Powell acknowledged their efforts but said that he felt that Eastern needs to take further steps.

"I feel like the campus could do a lot more," Powell said. "They need to educate students and even higher ups about what is happening in to-

day's society so they can project that image to other students as well."

The moderator, Tim Abel, pointed out that the students themselves are often the ones to initiate change on campus.

"As students in a student body, you have power to start those discussions and have those changes," Abel said.

Bluminberg said that in her experience, students are nervous to partake in activism even when they are about an issue. A lot of people were willing to sign petitions in support of putting up a flag on campus, but didn't want to talk to faculty about it, she said.

"Talking to those students afterward, they were scared. They didn't want any backlash from the community, any violence," Bluminberg said. "A lot of people are afraid to be uncomfortable, but change can't happen unless we are uncomfortable. It's those uncomfortable topics that need to be discussed more than anything else. It's up to us to speak up, despite the opinions and the backlash."

Carole Collins Ayanlaja, an assistant professor in the department of educational leadership, said that her fellow faculty members should pay attention to student activists.

"It's incredibly important to recognize that we as adults are in a continuously learning role. That's what educated people do, they keep learning," Ayanlaja said. "Sometimes we need to take a seat and learn from our students, to be schooled by the younger people. I encourage my colleagues to be learners from this generation of

leaders, just as we taught in the 70s and 80s."

Ayanlaja said that she was an anti-Apartheid activist when she was younger, and that her views were considered "edgy" at the time.

Catherine Polydore, the assistant dean of the Honors college, said that her time as a professor has made her more vocal about racism on campus.

"I have experienced what I consider racism from a student in my first year as a faculty member. At the time, I felt as if I couldn't say anything or do anything. Because I was new, I didn't want to ruffle any feathers," Polydore said. "As I progressed, I realized there are students of color having to look at me for that activism. I had to put aside my fear of consequences."

One of the last subjects touched on during the event was a recent issue that arose when a police officer wore a "blue lives matter" face mask on campus.

"That hurts me as a Black man, knowing that the police have brutalized my brothers and sisters throughout our history. Saying 'Black lives matter' doesn't mean that nobody else's lives matter, it means that we have gone unnoticed for so long and we are bringing our issues to your attention," Powell said. "If I call the police, I'm in a situation where I feel afraid. You may be a good cop, but you're supporting a system that has brutalized me."

Elizabeth Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.

Local weather

FRIDAY SATURDAY

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Low: 26°Partly Cloudy
High: 42°
Low: 25°THE DAILY
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STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

States plan for
vaccines as daily
deaths top 3,100

States drafted plans Thursday for who will go to the front of the line when the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine become available later this month, as U.S. deaths from the outbreak eclipsed 3,100 in a single day, obliterating the record set last spring.

With initial supplies of the vaccine certain to be limited, governors and other state officials are weighing both health and economic concerns in deciding the order in which the shots will be dispensed.

States face a Friday deadline to submit requests for doses of the Pfizer vaccine and specify where they should be shipped, and many appear to be heeding nonbinding guidelines adopted this week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to put health care workers and nursing home patients first.

But they're also facing a multitude of decisions about other categories of residents — some specific to their states; some vital to their economies.

Colorado's draft plan, which is being revised, puts ski resort workers who share close quarters in the second phase of vaccine distribution, in recognition of the \$6 billion industry's linchpin role in the state's economy.

In Nevada, where officials have stressed the importance of bringing tourists back to the Las Vegas Strip, authorities initially put nursing home patients in the third phase, behind police officers, teachers, airport operators and retail workers. But they said Wednesday that they would revise that plan to conform to the CDC guidance.

In Arkansas, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said health care and long-term care facility workers are the top priority, but the state was still refining who would be included in the next phase. A draft vaccination plan submitted to the CDC in October listed poultry workers along with other essential workers such as teachers, law enforcement and correctional employees in the so-called 1B category.

Poultry is a major part of Arkansas' economy, and nearly 6,000 poultry workers have tested positive for the virus since the pandemic began, according to the state Health Department.

"We know these workers have been the brunt of large outbreaks not only in our state, but also in other states," said Dr. Jose Romero, the state's health secretary and chairman of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Plans for the vaccine are being rolled out as the surging pandemic swamps U.S. hospitals and leaves nurses and other medical workers short-handed and burned out. Nationwide, the coronavirus is blamed for more than 275,000 deaths and 14 million confirmed infections.

Illinois COVID-19
deaths remain at
near-record levels

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois public health officials reported 10,959 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Thursday and a second consecutive day of near-record deaths.

The 192 fatalities from COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, matched the toll from May 13, at the height of the initial wave of the disease in Illinois.

That total is second only to the 238 reported Wednesday. The Illinois Department of Public Health said some data reported this week was delayed

by the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Illinois has now reported 12,830 deaths among 759,562 coronavirus infections.

Friday is the deadline for states to submit their vaccination rollout plans to the federal government.

With vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna close to U.S. regulatory approval, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said the state is expecting doses of the vaccine to begin arriving in Illinois as early as Dec. 13.

Trump aide banned
from Justice after
trying to get case info

WASHINGTON (AP) — The official serving as President Donald Trump's eyes and ears at the Justice Department has been banned from the building after trying to pressure staffers to give up sensitive information about election fraud and other matters she could relay to the White House, three people familiar with the matter tell The Associated Press.

Heidi Stirrup, an ally of top Trump adviser Stephen Miller, was quietly installed at the Justice Department as a White House liaison a few months ago.

She was told within the last two weeks to vacate the building after top Justice officials learned of her efforts to collect insider information about ongoing cases and the department's work on election fraud, the people said.

Stirrup is accused of approaching staffers in the department demanding they give her information about investigations, including election fraud matters, the people said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

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About

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief JJ Bullock at 581-2812.

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If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



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Drive-through parade to be held Saturday

By **Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**
Campus Reporter | @09L_news

Charleston will be having a Christmas in the Heart of Charleston Drive-Through Parade on Saturday from 5 to 6 p.m.

The festivities will begin with a Christmas tree lighting, which will be happening on the Facebook Live of “Christmas at the Heart of Charleston” Facebook page starting at 4:45 p.m. The lighting will be happening right before the parade, then the parade will open up for attendees to enjoy.

The drive-through parade will then be happening around Charleston Town Square, with cars entering on 7th Street and making their way through the parade. Because this event has to be a low contact event in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, no walkers are allowed on the square. People not in cars

will be asked to leave.

Diane Ratliff, Charleston resident and Chair of the “Christmas at the Heart of Charleston Committee,” explained that in order to efficiently run this event this year, things had to be done a little differently.

“Christmas in the Heart of Charleston is a long-standing tradition in Charleston, but this year, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we had to change up the way we did it, but we wanted to make sure we still had something for the families and children to participate in,” Ratliff said.

She explained that the parade will feature lit parade floats, festive displays, and inflatables that will be parked on the sides of streets. People will get to see the beautiful displays as they drive through the streets of the Square.

Attendees will also get the opportunity to see Santa and his reindeer, who

will be at the end of the drive-through parade. At the parade, people will also be giving away treat bags to the first 500 children ages 12 and younger that pass through the parade.

The Charleston Area Churches Food Pantry will also be partaking in the festivities, running a food drive at the parade so families can receive the help they need during the holiday season. As it says on the “Christmas in the Heart of Charleston” Facebook page, they are asking people to bring non-perishable food or cash donations to “fill the stockings for the Charleston Food Pantry.”

Other organizations in the area will be participating at this event, bringing their own holiday-themed displays and floats to share with the community.

“We have a lot of the local emergency services and local businesses that are putting up displays,” Ratliff said.

Some Eastern Resident Student Or-

ganizations will also be participating at the parade.

Other Christmas festivities will be happening in the next couple of weeks, all of which are free.

Ratliff explained that back in November, the committee gave out art kits and ginger bread houses, which will be on display throughout the Charleston Town Square the entire month of December.

“It will be to encourage families to come out and shop, as well as look at the arts and crafts items that are on display,” she said.

Dec. 1 to Dec. 23, people can partake in the Movie Character Scavenger Hunt sponsored by Cooper Bumpus Insurance Agency. For the scavenger hunt, people have to visit the 22 “Christmas in the Heart of Charleston” sponsors and look for a poster of a Christmas movie character.

The people must then identify which movie that character is from and submit their answers to a Google form found on the “Christmas at the Heart of Charleston” Facebook page by December 23 at noon. Whoever has the most correct answers by then will win a prize.

Ratliff also explained that they have a hotline to Santa where families can fill out information or send a letter to Santa and Santa will call their child. They also have a Spirit of the Holidays Outdoor Decorating Contest that Charleston residents can participate in.

To learn more information about the Christmas festivities and events happening in the next couple of weeks, people should check out the “Christmas in the Heart of Charleston” Facebook page.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or knmoralesrodriquez@eiu.edu.

» NAMING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

names or perhaps a name change that reflects that the halls are for the debate not for the individuals they are named after.

Glassman also shared some suggestions he has been given for name changes like changing it to be named after former President Barack Obama, abolitionist Frederick Douglas, Eastern’s first Black student Zella Powell and Mjr. Charles Hall who attended Eastern and was a Tuskegee Airman.

Glassman also explained who the constituents are in this case: current students, alumni, faculty, staff members, members

of the Charleston community and annu-
itants.

The committee discussed how they planned to collect feedback from constituents and whether they would keep feedback anonymous. Another discussion was had on whether they would take into consideration what individuals share about their thoughts on changing or keeping the name or if they would just keep record of how many people were for and against a change.

The committee created a subcommittee to plan the methods of collecting feedback and storing that information. The

subcommittee will consist of Claudia Danyi and Sam Elder.

The committee also spoke further about the history of Eastern discussing changing the name of Douglas Hall which was originally brought up ten years ago by former Eastern professor Christopher Hanlon.

Hanlon also spoke to the committee during public comment.

Hanlon discussed his thoughts on the significance of naming a building after someone.

“When you name a building after a historical figure you are not simply point-

ing out that this figure once existed, you’re saying you wish to honor this person,” Hanlon said. “You’re not saying that they were perfect, but you are saying here’s someone on balance, when you take the good with the bad is worth our praise.”

He added that the residence halls do not reflect the historical debate well but rather the two men they are named after.

“Both buildings tend to imply something like ‘here were two great Illinoisans, each of whom had some solid points to make, take your pick,’” Hanlon said.

Hanlon referenced ex officio convenor of the committee Ken Weinstein’s pre-

sentation of historical information of the naming of the residence halls as well and his own research into the original naming of the residence halls.

He described Eastern’s campus at the time of the naming.

“Six black students the year the building was being named. Editorials being published in the (Daily Eastern News) criticizing desegregation efforts,” Hanlon said. “Our first Black Homecoming Queen stripped of her title when a group of white students complained.”

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OPINIONS

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS
WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM
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STAFF EDITORIAL

It is important to be aware of climate change

With everything that has been happening in the news throughout much of 2020, it can be difficult to focus on everything that is going on at any given time.

But among the COVID-19 pandemic, political turmoil and racial unrest, it is vital that we remember that global climate change is still a very real threat.

We at the Daily Eastern News understand that it is hard to keep track of all the news lately, and it is often very unpleasant to follow the news, but we cannot afford to let climate change fade from the public view.

Earlier this week, the United Nations called on world leaders to end their “war on nature” in 2021.

“Apocalyptic fires and floods, cyclones and hurricanes are increasingly the new normal,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

His statement also rings true currently in California, where new wildfires are being fueled by dry conditions and strong winds.

According to the Associated Press, California has already had its worst-ever year for wildfires, with 6,500 acres being burned, 31 people being killed and 10,500 homes and structures being damaged or destroyed.

It seems like everywhere we turn this year, the end of the world seems to be on its way.

It can be very stressful to think or learn about climate change with everything else going on, but the very least we can do is make sure we are informed on what is happening.

Paying attention to government policies on climate and voting for candidates who prioritize combatting climate change is an even better way to get involved.

COLUMN

Small businesses may keep struggling during holidays

We’ve entered the time of year when Americans spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on gifts for the holiday season. Due to the continuing pandemic, many people have turned to online shopping to get their goods early on.

Although some still went out on Black Friday, a lot of people spent their money online trying to get the best Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals. The result of this was the biggest online shopping day in U.S. history with consumers spending over \$10 billion on Cyber Monday.

Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday and Small Business Saturday also had a big turnout with \$5 billion, \$9 billion, and \$4.7 billion in sales respectively. Even with record-breaking online sales last weekend, there was a dip in overall spending compared to last holiday season because so many people chose to shop online.

Overall about 186 million people purchased something online or in stores from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday compared to the 190 mil-



Destiny Blanchard

lion people one year ago. Shoppers on average spent about 14% less than they did in 2019.

This could mean a tough holiday season for retailers and small businesses that aren’t adapted well for online sales or adjusted versions of in-person shopping. Many of the large retailers offer curbside pickup, mobile apps for easier shopping, and updated websites that make them more desirable and safe options for consumers to shop at.

Because of the pandemic, the divide in sales between some of the largest retailers and the smallest of businesses has become wider. Amazon saw the biggest amount of hol-

iday spending on their website in their entire 26-year history this past week.

More small businesses will likely continue to temporarily or permanently close without the foot traffic they are used to at this time of year. For many small business owners and those without the money to spend on gifts, this Christmas could be bleak.

I think this uncovers a greater issue that small businesses have faced during this pandemic. This issue is that the only way to survive under the stresses of the global pandemic or any national issue that affects the economy is to be part of a company or industry that has millions to billions of dollars on reserve.

Without millions worth of resources on hand or help from the government, all small businesses can do is watch as the sales gaps continue to widen.

Destiny Blanchard is a junior management major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or dblanchard@eiu.edu.

Panthers win home opener by 22 points

By Adam Tumino

Editor-in-Chief | @adam_tumino

Following a challenging three-game stretch on the road to open the season, the Eastern men's basketball team bounced back in their home opener Thursday afternoon, beating Chicago State 78-56 for their first win of the season.

After losses to Wisconsin, Marquette and Dayton, Chicago State provided a bit of a respite for the Panthers, who opened the game on a 9-0 run and led by as many as 27 points in the game.

Head coach Jay Spoonhour said that he was just glad that the team was able to get into the win column.

"I was happy to win. Any time you start off with the games that we had, you're just happy, you want to get a win," he said.

The Cougars gave Eastern more trouble Thursday than they did in the game between the two last season, which Eastern won 98-34.

Chicago State shot just 4-of-21 from the field in the first half, but actually outscored the Panthers in the second half while shooting over 50 percent.

They were able to get within 18 points of the Panthers due to a 12-4 run at one point in the second half, but were unable to get any closer.

"I thought Chicago State competed the whole time," Spoonhour said. "We're all in the same kind of boat together, running around



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern forward Sammy Friday battles with two Chicago State defenders in the paint in a game Thursday afternoon. Friday led the team with 16 points and Eastern won the game 78-56.

playing games, some of them aren't even on your schedule. They're in the same sort of boat in that everything's been on the road, and I thought that they competed and did a good job."

Eastern shot 48.4 percent from the field in the game and received

scoring from multiple players.

Four Panthers scored in double figures, led by Sammy Friday IV with 16 points. He also tied for the team lead with seven rebounds.

"I'm really happy for Sammy. Sammy had a good game," Spoonhour said. "He rebounded the ball,

was able to finish some, so that was really good."

Friday said that he was happy the team picked up the win, and was also glad to produce on the court after scoring 8 points in the first three games combined.

"I just keep working hard," he

said. "First two games, I didn't do too well. I knew I had to come out the next couple of games and just play well, be consistent."

He also said he was happy with the way the rest of Eastern's bigs produced after having size disadvantages against their first three opponents.

"(Chicago State) didn't have too many bigs, so just throw the ball inside," Friday said. "We were able to capitalize off of that."

Friday's fellow bigs Jordan Skipper-Brown and George Dixon were productive as well.

Skipper-Brown had 11 points on 6-of-6 shooting. Dixon scored just two points but recorded seven rebounds and led the team with four steals.

Eastern will take the court again Saturday against Green Bay on the road. It will be the Panthers' fifth game in 10 days.

Spoonhour said that this kind of experience with the schedule can help prepare some players who may end up playing professionally.

"If you're ever going to go play for money, whatever league you're in, it's the lifestyle stuff that gets you. Are you going to stay up late? You ain't going to be any good," he said. "It's as close as we'll get right now to being pro. We're like pros with really bad contracts is what we are."

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

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